

May 2013 board meeting minutes

The Stark County Social Service board met on Monday, May 20, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Stark County Social Service office. The meeting was called to order by chairman, Russ Hoff.

Present for the meeting were Russ Hoff, Diane Mortenson, Jay Elkin, Duane Wolf, Jim Hope, Sherry Adams, and Pete Kuntz.

Absent was Ken Zander.

After one correction on the spelling of Pete's name, Duane made a motion to approve the April 2013 minutes and Pete seconded.

Financial statements: These were reviewed. Discussion followed. Pete made a motion to accept the statements, and Jay seconded.

Program report: This was reviewed. Discussion followed about the increase of child protection reports, and activity numbers in other programs.

Oil Impact: the number for April 2013 was 41. The year to date total is 162.

Personnel update: Foster care position continues to be open. Parent Aide (DCA III) interviews will be held on May 21 and 22. Student, Rachael Anderson, has started internship with the agency. Melissa Pavlicek, school social worker will be working full time this summer to assist with child protection reports. Discussion was held about increased activity at the front desk area (clerical unit) and the retirement of an IHCS, Diane Schmidt-Auch. The board approved to fill the IHCS position with what the needs of the agency are. Discussion with staff and supervisors will be held to decide what areas additional staff is needed in. The board commended the staff on the "excellent job" they have done filling in while other staff has been absent due to medical issues, maternity leave, and agency openings.

HB 1233: Information was presented that this bill did not pass. The intent was to assist with county costs for social service programs. The "study" to move toward state administration attached to this bill, may resurface, as the push toward property tax relief is very strong.

HB 1177: This bill changes the way boards are compensated and allows county commission to determine the rate of board compensation. Pete made a motion, seconded by Jay, to change the reimbursement for Stark County Social Service Board meetings to \$65.00 effective 8/1/13. The board unanimously approved this.

Medicaid Expansion: This bill did pass the legislature. It is unknown for sure how this will impact the county at this point, but the state will be keeping us informed as they learn information. There is the potential of 20,000 to 32,000 more eligible clients statewide.

Agency Awards: Recognition was given to the eligibility workers and clerical staff of the agency that assist with the SNAP program, as they received multiple awards at the Showcase Conference in Mandan in April. Special recognition was given to Jane Heiser who received the Eagle Award, the highest award given amongst all of her peers statewide. The board commended the staff on the great job they did in the past year to receive these recognition awards.

Safety Update: Bids have been asked of businesses to install safety equipment for the agency. Jay spoke of the courthouse security money that was approved at the legislature, and will notify Diane of the entity that will be installing that equipment.

WRCSW Board meeting: The annual board member meeting will be held during the WRCSW in Medora on June 13' 2013 in Medora at 11:30 AM. The board was invited to attend.

Multi-County CPS position: The board was updated on the project, and the decision has been made to end the contract when it expires on June 30, 2013. The board was informed of the discussions with the county directors and the state office involved with the project. The project will end due to the inability to hire a Social Worker III to fill this position, and the increased need for staff in the child protection unit at Stark County. The board commended Sharon Stroh on the excellent job she did in this position the past 3+ years. In addition, the state office and the counties involved in the project were very thankful to her for her services.

With there being no other business, Sherry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pete.

Russ Hoff, Chairman

Diane Mortenson, Agency Director